

CENTRAL COAST LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NETWORK (CCLEAN)
Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 22nd, 2025, 2:00 pm
Via Teleconference Zoom Webinar

The meeting was called to order on October 22, 2025, at 2 pm by Patrick Treanor. Roll call was taken of the voting committee members signed on to Zoom.

Participants – Voting Members: Present:

Anne Hogan, Wastewater System Manager: City of Santa Cruz
Jennie Munster, Quality Assurance/Quality Control Chemist
Patrick Treanor, District Engineer: CAWD
Mohammed Serageldin, Laboratory Manager: CAWD
Olivia Woolery, Laboratory Supervisor: Monterey One Water (M1W)

Voting Members: Absent:

Dave Martin, Environmental Compliance Inspector: City of Santa Cruz
Mike Crane, Interim Laboratory Manager: City of Watsonville
Jeremy Long, Wastewater Division Manager: City of Scotts Valley
Sarah Stevens, Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Supervisor: Monterey One Water
Jose Guzman, Operations Manager: Monterey One Water
Laura Dale, EH&S Manager: Vistra Corp (Moss Landing Power Plant)

A quorum was present.

Participants – Non-Voting Members: Present

Aroon Melwani, Senior Scientist, Central Coast Managing Principal Partner: Applied Marine Sciences (AMS)
Sarah Bragg-Flavan, Water Resource Control Engineer: Central Coast Water Board

Non-Voting Members: Absent

Dane Hardin, Senior Marine Scientist, Principal: Applied Marine Sciences
Cameron Kostigen Mumper, Associate Manager | Pure Water Soquel
Sarah Crable, Water Resource Control Engineer: Central Coast Water Board

Virtual Public Attendees: None

1. **Appearances/Public Comments:** *No Public Appearances / Public Comment*

2. **Agenda Changes:**

None.

3. **Agenda Items:**

A. Introductions:

Attendees were noted and there was a quorum.

B. Chair's Report by Santa Cruz Representative

Discussion:

NPDES/ELAP training hosted in Santa Cruz

- Full-day training (involving a lawyer and compliance staff) covered discharge permits, compliance/non-compliance handling, permit writing, and case-manager relationships.
- Olivia Woolery highlighted the value of hearing the lawyer perspective (rare in typical trainings).
- Anne Hogan added the session also addressed the Collection System General Order, noting material changes from ~2014 including SSMP requirements and audits; emphasized usefulness for collection systems staff.
- Takeaway: Reinforced proactive case-manager relationships and broadened compliance literacy across teams.

Pure Water Soquel

- Likely fully operational in December.

Local staffing updates

- Santa Cruz Lab Manager recruitment still in progress; update expected by November.
- CAWD is interviewing for new Lab Analyst and received a lot of applications.

Decision:

None.

Action Item:

None.

C. Review of Prior Meeting Minutes

Discussion:

Patrick brought up the September 24th meeting minutes on the screen and gave a quick synopsis.

Decision:

Minutes were approved by consensus, with no objections raised.

Action Item:

None.

D. Lead Agency Remarks

No discussion.

E. Program Director's Report

Discussion:

Data management / EDDs

- Continuing to “chip away” at EDD Review.
- Target: Distribute all EDDs by January 31 (current standard schedule).

Neonicotinoids — analytical method direction

- State Board review (led by Andrew Hamilton) is pushing the field toward LC-MS for neonics due to thermal breakdown issues under GC-MS.
- Some labs continue to advocate GC-MS and cite validations (e.g., Region 5 package review), but regional boards are discussing the transition; a recommendation to switch to LC-MS is likely.
- Jennie asked whether LC-MS recommendations come from concrete side-by-side data or theory. Aaron indicated there is quantitative information supporting LC-MS performance.

Potential side-by-side collaboration for Neonicotinoids

- AMS is exploring a side-by-side method comparison for neonics, possibly in collaboration with another program, to both (a) validate trends vs. existing GC-MS data and (b) preserve the usefulness of legacy datasets during the transition.
- To bring back next meeting: Any update on feasibility, design, and cost implications.

Phase 4 Work Update

- Effluent TSS is low overall (well under 50–60 mg/L limits) with a recent spike at Watsonville; Monterey & Santa Cruz stepped down in recent years; Scotts Valley variable but trending lower lately.
- TSS in effluent correlates with POPs—stronger with PCBs, weaker with DDTs—and the strength varies by season, suggesting TSS can help interpret expected POPs variability.
- Ocean TSS shows little to no relationship to concentrations under current design, while river TSS shows strong relations (as expected at higher concentrations), reinforcing river TSS's decision value.
- Time-matching river and effluent TSS (short averaging window) reveals signal for Santa Cruz ↔ San Lorenzo, but no clear link for Watsonville ↔ Pajaro, showing matching helps but is site-dependent.

- Nutrients in effluent trend upward; silica tracks nitrate and total N strongly, while urea is usually low but has recent outliers (Monterey, Scotts Valley, Carmel) that weaken correlations.
- Patrick’s hypothesis: rising concentrations may reflect lower discharge volumes from recycling (higher strength at lower flow). Aroon will re-analyze by mass load and flow-normalize (current plots are concentration-based).
- Ocean nutrients show mixed patterns: silica↔nitrate/total N weakens offshore; urea↔ammonia appears in ocean (not effluent), implying matrix-dependent behavior and potential benefit from nearshore sampling.
- Design/interpretability limits: Offshore, sparse grab samples make ocean inferences weak; consider location/frequency changes and adding covariates to improve signal.
- Program focus conversation: Pair correlations with long-term trend behavior (flat vs. choppy) to decide what’s worth continuing (e.g., ocean TSS may be low value as currently done); use TSS as a covariate in river POP models.
- Next steps & timing: Tasks 1–2 (removal efficiency + urea/silica/TSS integration) targeted for end of November; also to group contaminants by behavior, report formal regression stats, document Watsonville spike context, and synthesize SWAMP/UCSC biota datasets for status context.
- Discussion on CCLEAN’s purpose: long-term trends remain a core goal, but intra-annual variability can mask meaningful changes; proper statistics and context are key to interpreting trend vs. correlation.

Phase 4 Tasking and deliverables

- Aroon had been aiming for a single technical memo covering five tasks by year-end.
- Group preference: Stage the review — Tasks 1–2 first, by end of November if possible, given they’re more data-heavy and more mature. Aroon agreed to “shoot for that.”
- He can share sections earlier for feedback before the full memo congeals.

Decision:

None

Action Item:

- AMS- Aim to deliver draft sections for Tasks 1–2 by end of November for early review.
- AMS - Continue evaluating LC-MS transition for neonics; scope a side-by-side (possibly multi-program) and return with costs/plan at the next meeting.
- AMS - Maintain EDD timeline; target Jan 31 distribution

F. CCLEAN Topics or Questions for Water Board Staff

Discussion:

ELAP standard (TNI vs TNI-2)

- Patrick & Mohammad raised whether CCLEAN should align to TNI rather than TNI-2 (because TNI-2 imposes more burden — e.g., two PT studies/year and stricter lab manager qualification requirements).
- Rationale for considering TNI (non “-2”): Cost and administrative load; concern that regional boards may eventually require the higher bar, so there’s a trade-off between adopting it now vs. deferring.
- Water Board input (Sarah Bragg-Flavan): Regional staff don’t set the TNI/TNI-2 nuances; they look for ELAP certification and don’t manage program internals. She could not provide a direct forecast on ELAP’s next revisions.
- Cost context shared by Jennie: PT studies can cost in the \$5k–\$8k range each; doubling PTs is a notable expense. Her view: industry competence is trending up, and there’s no immediate rush if the bar isn’t changing quickly.
- Mohammad’s note on qualifications: Auditors scrutinize credit hours for lab managers; gaps can restrict who can sign final reports (e.g., microbiology vs. chemistry). Specialty domains (e.g., radiochemistry) have different thresholds.
- Takeaway: No directive change from Water Board; decision on TNI vs TNI-2 remains a programmatic/cost-benefit choice for CCLEAN participants, with awareness of potential future tightening.

Decision:

None.

Action Item:

None.

G. Water Board’s Report

Discussion:

Sarah Bragg-Flavan shared:

Contacting the right case manager

- Board leadership (incl. Acting Supervisor Tamara Anderson and EO Ryan Lodge) attended a regional gathering (Sarah referenced “SAMA”; exact acronym expanded uncertainly on-mic).
- Emphasis that dischargers should know their current case manager given staff turnover; email outreach expected, and CIWQS is updated to reflect assignments (another place to look).

Bypass reporting

- Patrick asked about a possible new requirement to upload bypass events into CIWQS, not just call the case manager.
- Sarah confirmed communications came from State Board; staff hadn't been fully briefed at Region level yet, but she is not surprised by the shift toward formal CIWQS entries.

Neonicotinoids

- Sarah echoed that the neonics dataset under current methods has been qualitatively frustrating. Go to Andrew Hamilton early with methods so data doesn't get disqualified later.

Permitting cadence

- The next two ocean permits in the CCLEAN cohort are coming up soon (CAWD and Scotts Valley)
- Statewide, boards are backlogged on inland permit renewals due to test of significant toxicity legal case.

Decision:

None.

Action Item:

None.

H. Financial Report

Discussion:

Patrick Treanor shared updates:

Year-end true-up (last fiscal year):

- The previously approved contingency invoice arrived and was booked to close out the prior year; small dollar impact.

Current project year (FY) status:

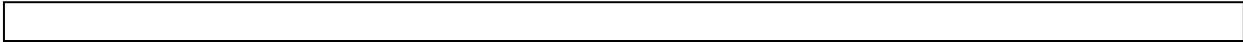
- Q1 (Jul-Sep): Complete; all agencies have paid per CAWD's accountant.
- Q2 invoices: Issued in October; payments still pending

Decision:

None

Action Item:

None



I. General Announcements

AWPF expansion (Monterey One Water)

- Olivia reported that WDR approved on October 9 — “new AWTF permit” acknowledged as a milestone; credit to compliance staff for carrying it to the finish line.
- Forthcoming: California American Water Desalination project (Pure Water Monterey / brine integration) expected to amend the NPDES to accept brine waste; watch for coordination and timing.

Next meetings

- Action: Patrick to poll/confirm availability with the full group; if workable, keep the date.
- Usual pattern is to skip December; an early-December back-up could be considered if needed.

J. Next Meeting Date:

December 3rd at 2:00 PM was the next scheduled meeting for the steering committee.

4. ADJOURNMENT: *Patrick Treanor adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m.*